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# DNR Proposed Air Quality Watch & Air Quality Advisory Program

- March 27, 2006
- Madison WI
- Anne Bogar, DNR

# Current Action Days & Health Advisories

- Air action days – ozone only/seasonal

Current action day programs for elevated 8 hour ozone levels; past program for 1 hour ozone levels; no programs for fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)

- Air quality health advisories – ozone and fine particles/year-round

Current health advisories for 8 hour ozone values and 24 hour fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) values

# Current Action Day Programs

- WI Partners for Clean Air (led by SER staff) in 6 southeast counties announces Ozone Action Days; 12th year; nonattainment for 8 hour ozone
- Dane County Clean Air Coalition announces Clean Air Action Days; 3rd year; attainment
- Jefferson County Clean Air Team announces Clean Air Action Days; 3rd year; attainment

# Current Action Day Programs (con't)

- NEW (Northeast Wisconsin) Air Coalition (Fond du Lac & Winnebago counties to date) announces Ozone Action Days; 3rd year; attainment
- Department of Administration announces to state agency participants

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## Current Action Day & Health Advisories Communications

Communication tools are extensive

Broadcast media faxes, broadcast faxes to partners, voicemail broadcasts, Listserv and other email distribution lists, web page updates, press releases, hotline, limited personal phone calls and Health Advisory Network notifications

# Challenges with Current Action Days and Health Advisories

- Multiple pollutants (ozone and fine particles) with different health messages and actions
- Overlapping geographic coverage and media markets
- Multiple messages in one day
- Advisory messages often too late for media coverage

# Proposed Air Quality Watch

- Air Quality Watch issued by noon & forecast for next day
  - Specify pollutant
  - Specify length (start & ending times)
  - Specify geographic coverage (eg, list counties)
  - Include health messages and actions to take to reduce emissions

# Proposed Air Quality Watch

- Air Quality Watch
  - Links to AQI
  - Called when forecast is orange (unhealthy for sensitive groups)
  - Called for multi-county area (current proposal is 5 counties; based on fine particle episodes)
  - Triggers voluntary action programs



# Proposed Air Quality Watch & Action Day Programs

- DNR announces air quality watch instead of multiple action day programs with different names and coverage
- Partners can tailor action day programs to needs & resources:
  - Seasonal or year-round
  - Ozone only or ozone & fine particles
  - Every day or weekdays only

# Proposed Air Quality Watch

- Primary communication channels are NWS wire and DNR Listserv
- Notices posted on DNR web pages, DNR hotline and Health Advisory Network (HAN) with DHFS cooperation

# Proposed Air Quality Advisory

- Air Quality Advisory issued when occur and message is current conditions
  - Pollutant not specified
  - Specify Length (start & ending times)
  - Specify geographic coverage (eg, list counties)
  - Emphasis on combined health messages to cover either pollutant
  - Lists actions to cover either pollutant

# Proposed Air Quality Advisory

- Air Quality Advisory
  - Links to AQI
  - Called when levels are at or over unhealthy to sensitive groups (orange)
  - Called for one or more counties

# Proposed Air Quality Advisory

- Air Quality Advisory uses same communication channels as Air Quality Watch

## Next Steps

- Public input meetings on March 27 in Madison and April 12 in Milwaukee
- Work with NWS on message formats and delivery
- Work with Partners on program needs
- Brief media markets (with NWS and Partners) & develop public education materials

# Tentative Start

- National Air Quality Awareness Week
  - May 15-19, 2006
  - Sponsored by EPA & NOAA

# Questions or Comments?

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